Industry Profiles

Construction Industry

Revised: February 2008

Alberta

Employment, Immigration and Industry

Overview:

The Construction industry[1] in Alberta includes:

- establishments that construct, repair or renovate residential buildings (i.e. houses, apartment buildings, condominiums);
- establishments that construct, repair or renovate business and commercial buildings (i.e. office towers, shops, malls);
- establishments that construct, repair or renovate industrial buildings (i.e. oil refineries and, petrochemical plants, power plants);
- engineering works (i.e. highways, bridges, pipelines); and
- places that subdivide and develop land.

Section A: Business Environment
1. Employment and Unemployment Numbers and Rates
2. Industry Growth
3. Company Size
Section B: Human Resources Profile
1. Occupational Information
2. Demographics: Age and Gender
3. Wages
Section C: Additional Information
1. Links to Industry Associations
2. Links to Government Library Database

[1] North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) major group 23

Section A: Business Environment

1. 2006 Employment and Unemployment Numbers and Rates:

	Alberta	Construction Industry
Number of employed	1,870,700	172,600
Percent employed in the industry		9.2%
Number of unemployed	66,800	7,900
Unemployment rate	3.4%	4.4%

For more information on employment numbers or for a historical comparison, go to the Labour Force Survey or Statistics Canada websites.

2. Industry Growth:

- The Construction industry is expected to grow on average 5.2% annually from 2006 to 2011.
- Approximately 50,074 jobs will be created in the forecast period. Employment is expected to increase to 222,649 by 2011.
- This industry is expected to provide 21.2% of all new jobs in Alberta between 2006 and 2011.

For more information, see the Alberta Modified Canadian Occupational Projection System Outlook (2006-2011) online and the Alberta Learning Information Service (ALIS) website's industry descriptions.

Outlook

Record investment in oil sands projects is establishing Alberta as a major hub for Canadian construction workers, drawing workers from across the country and continuing growth for trades.

The Construction Sector Council's (CSC) forecast report, *Construction Looking Forward: Labour Requirements from 2007-2015*, sees Alberta having several challenges in competing for and attracting skilled workers to the region due to other provinces, like Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Manitoba, and the Maritimes are also experiencing growth in construction development. As a result, Alberta can expect to see more overtime, enhanced recruitment efforts, increasing travel costs, and greater reliance on inter-provincial mobility and immigration.

The report projects that past 2010, labour market conditions should stabilize to manageable levels and a decrease in demand for some trades is to be expected. This will be offset by increasing retirements. However, oil sands development is likely to continue for the foreseeable future as fast as the availability of labour and materials will allow. As a result, the perception of development slowing down may only be due to the fact that project announcements extend for only about five years.

The CSC projects that while residential investment will remain at relatively high levels, it will likely slow down over the forecast period of 2007 to 2015, due to slower net in-migration. Although investment in residential construction is expected to go down from 2006 levels, the projected investment in 2010 is still higher then the actual investment in 2005. Non-residential investment should still see high investment increases at a slower rate. The outlook for investment in Alberta is an important driver for the demand of construction trades. The CSC current outlook can be seen in the table below.

Investment Expenditures, Alberta, 2005-2015							
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011-2015*
Residential Investment (includes new housing and renovations)							
1997 $Millions	7,143	8,269	8,157	7,888	7,542	7,199	6044
% Change	12.8	15.8	-1.4	-3.3	-4.4	-4.5	-3.3
Non-residential Investment (includes engineering construction, building construction, industrial construction, commercial construction, institutional and government construction and machinery and equipment)							
1997 $Millions	50,099	54,933	61,737	66,108	67,324	65,720	63152
% Change	18.9	9.6	12.4	7.1	1.8	-2.4	-0.8

Source: *Construction Looking Forward - Labour Requirements for 2007 to 2015 for Alberta*, Construction Sector Council
*Growth rates are averages for the period, while levels are 2015 values.

3. Company Size

Establishment Size	Alberta Businesses		Construction Businesses	
	Number of Employees	%	Number of Employees	%
Less than 20 employees	525,000	34.1%	55,900	47.1%
20 to 99 employees	543,600	35.3%	40,700	34.3%
100 to 500 employees	292,400	19.0%	15,200	12.8%
Over 500 employees	178,900	11.6%	7,100	6.0%

Data Source: Labour Force Historical Review 2006, Statistics Canada

Section B: Human Resources Profile

1. Occupational Information:

Some examples of occupations in the Construction industry include:

- bricklayer;
- carpenter;
- electrician;
- roofer; and
- steamfitter-pipefitter.

For a complete listing of all occupations related to this industry as well as detailed information on educational and skill requirements, visit the Alberta Occupational Profiles website.

2. Demographics: Age and Gender

According to the Labour Force Survey, the gender break-down in the Construction industry is as follows:

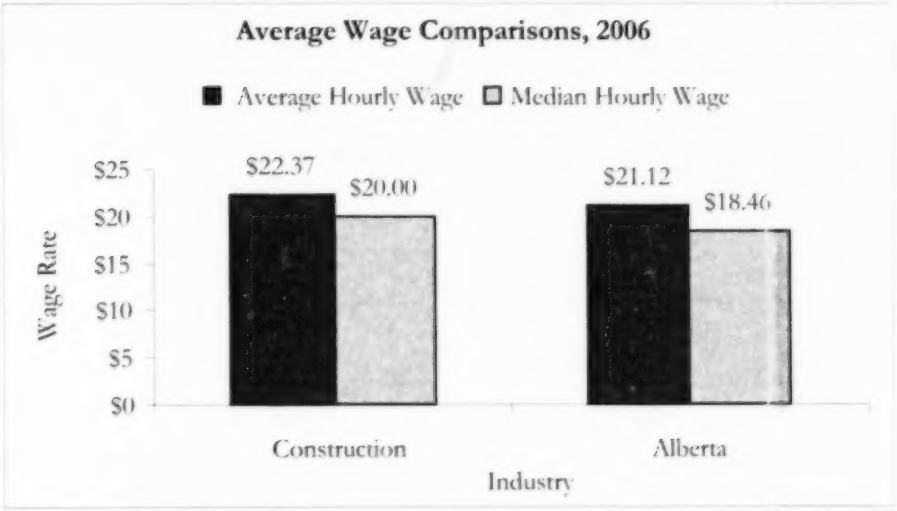
- women employed: 23,500 people, or 13.6%
- men employed: 149,100 people, or 86.4%

In comparison, women accounted for 44.3% and men made up 54.7% of the total employed in Alberta.

Age Characteristics	Alberta Employees		Construction Industry Employees	
	Number	%	Number	%
15-24 years	329,600	17.6%	31,600	18.3%
25-54 years	1,286,500	68.8%	122,300	70.9%
55 years and over	254,600	13.6%	18,700	10.8%

Data Source: Labour Force Historical Review 2006, Statistics Canada

3. Wages:



Data Source: Labour Force Historical Review 2006, Statistics Canada

Wage and Salary Information for Selected Occupations

Occupation	Average Hourly Wage			Average Annual Salary
	Starting	After 3 years	Top	
Welders and related machine operators	$ 22.32	$ 29.61	$ 45.74	$ 89,729
Construction estimators	$ 20.68	$ 25.01	$ 31.67	$ 56,253
Other trades helpers and labourers	$ 11.69	$ 15.05	$ 18.61	$ 34,105

Data Source: 2005 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey

For more information on wages, refer to the WAGEinfo webpage. For job descriptions, duties, required skills and education for specific occupations in the Construction industry, visit the ALIS website.

Section C: Additional Information

1. Links to Selected Industry Associations:

- Alberta Building Trades Council
- Alberta Construction Association
- Alberta Construction Safety Association
- Alberta Roadbuilders and Heavy Construction Association
- Calgary Construction Association
- Calgary Region Home Builders Association
- Edmonton Construction Association
- Edmonton Region Home Builder's Association
- Merit Contractors Association

2. Link to Government Library Database:

http://www.servicelink.gov.ab.ca/libraries/workplace/